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TEN POINTS OF A WEEKLY CALENDAR

by

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1. The weather and the crops are both controlled by the sun and the earth's rotation; consequently the solar year and the day are fundamental time intervals which cannot be altered. No alteration is suggested in the Gregorian method of co-ordinating the year and the day by normal years of 365 days and exceptional years of 366 days.

2. For meteorology the cardinal points of the year are the two solstices which are times of least change and the equinoxes which are the times of most rapid change in the solar radiation. These cardinal points are associated in the zodiac with the constellations Cancer the Crab, Capricornus the Goat, Aries the Ram and Libra the Scales.

From the point of view of agriculture the cardinal points may be the mid points of the seasons, winter, summer, spring, autumn which have a lag of about a month behind the sun, say Jan. 20, July 20, April 20, October 20, of the Gregorian Calendar.

3. So far as meteorology is concerned the period of 28, 30, 31 days has no special value except from "use and wont". Entries in the Calendar of real months giving the time of new and full moon or in a weekly Calendar of the phase of the moon at the middle of each week, would be useful information as regards moonlight and tides; but the division of the year into "months" which are not months ought to be regarded as an obsolete method of time reckoning.

4. In any case a month of 28, 30 or 31 days is too long a unit for most meteorological and agricultural purposes. The other unit more or less common to the world, the seven-day week, is not inappropriate as an intermediate unit between the day and the year. Its seven days have the awkward feature of not being a factor of 365 days, though they are of 364. 52 weeks are one day short of the year in ordinary years and two days short in leap year.

5. Intermediate between the week and the 364 days year, are the quarters of thirteen weeks each which we may represent as six full weeks on either side of the week containing the solstice or equinox. Calling provisionally the six weeks on the one side of the cardinal week the first spell of the quarter and that on the other side the second spell, a schedule of meteorological and phenological data for the year could be made up as follows:-

Goat quarter	(First spell	h - m
	(Solstice week	n
	(Second spell	o - t
Ram quarter	(First spell	u - z
	(Equinox week	A
	((Off day)	
	(Second spell	B - G
Crab quarter	(First spell	H - M
	(Solstice week	N
	(Second spell	O - T
Scales quarter	(First spell	U - Z
	(Equinox week	a
	(Second spell	b - g

6. This would account for 364 days. The additional day in ordinary years and two additional days in leap year have to be dealt with. From the meteorological point of view the best days to choose as extra days or "off days" would be those of which the inclusion or exclusion would affect the means for the quarter or the year least. On general grounds those days are the equinoctial days, March 21 and September 23 or 24 of the Gregorian Calendar, as being the days of mean values. But though in the long run they would affect the mean least they are the days of most rapid change in solar conditions and from that point of view are good days to select, not to be disregarded as non-existent but more reasonably as days for special surveys of weather and crops.

7. So if we agree that the crop-weather Calendar should begin with a week that starts from the first day of the year, we get the following skeleton crop weather Calendar of 52 weeks with one extra day for an ordinary year and two for a leap year.

Weekly Calendar.

Gregorian equivalent	Days	Nol of Week	Name of Week or Symbol	
End of Northern Autumn				
Nov.6 - 12	310-316	45)	h	
13 - 19	317-323	46)	i	
20 - 26	324-330	47)	j	
Nov.27-Dec.3	331-337	48)	k	
Dec.4 - 10	338-344	49)	l	
11 - 17	345-351	50)	m	
18 - 24	352-358	51)	n	Goat week
25 - 31	359-365	52)	o	Christmas week
Jan.1 - 7 New Year	1- 7	1)	p	
8 - 14	8- 14	2)	q	
15 - 21	15- 21	3)	r	
22 - 28	22- 28	4)	s	
Jan.29-Feb.4	29- 35	5)	t	
Feb.5 - 11	36- 42	6)	u	
12 - 18	43- 49	7)	v	
19 - 25	50- 56	8)	w	
Feb.26-Mar.4	57- 63	9)	x	
Mar.5 - 11	64- 70	10)	y	
12 - 18	71- 77	11)	z	
19 - 25	78- 84	12)	A	Ram week
March 26	85 Day off		&	Special Survey and pest campaign.
Mar.27-Ap.2	86- 92	13)	B	First week of wheat growing in Western Australia.
Ap. 3 - 9	93- 99	14)	C	
10 - 16	100-106	15)	D	
17 - 23	107-113	16)	E	
24 - 30	114-120	17)	F	
May 1 - 7	121-127	18)	G	
8 - 14	128-134	19)	H	
15 - 21	135-141	20)	I	
22 - 28	142-148	21)	J	
May 29- June 4	149-155	22)	K	
June 5- 11	156-162	23)	L	Epsom week
12- 18	163-169	24)	M	Eights week. (Cambridge)
19- 25	170-176	25)	N	Crab week. Ascot week.
June 26-Jly 2	177-183	26)	O	Hay Harvest in the South and Midlands.

Northern Winter — 1st Gregorian Quarter — Goat Quarter

Northern Spring — 2nd Gregorian Quarter — Ram Quarter

Beginning of Northern Summer

Gregorian equivalent	Days	No. of Week	Name of Week or Symbol	
May 8 - 14	128-134	19	H	
15 - 21	135-141	20	I	
22 - 28	142-148	21	J	
May 29-June 4	149-155	22	K	
June 5 -11	156-162	23	L	
12- 18	163-169	24	M	
19- 25	170-176	25	N	Crab week
June 26-Jly 2	177-183	26	O	
July 3- 9	184-190	27	P	Henley Week.
10- 16	191-197	28	Q	Royal Counties Show
17- 23	198-204	29	R	
24- 30	205-211	30	S	Goodwood week
Jly 31- Aug.6	212-218	31	T	
Aug. 7- 13	219-225	32	U	Cowes week
14- 20	226-232	33	V	
21- 27	233-239	34	W	
Aug.28- Sept.3	240-246	35	X	
Sept 4- 10	247-253	36	Y	
11- 17	254-260	37	Z	
18- 24	261-267	38	a	Scales week
Sept.24	267	Day off in leap year	&	
Sept.25-Oct.1	268-274	39	b	
Oct. 2- 8	275-281	40	c	
9- 15	282-288	41	d	
16- 22	289-295	42	e	
23- 29	296-302	43	f	
Oct.30- Nov.5	303-309	44	g	
Nov. 6-12	310-316	45	h	
13-19	317-323	46	i	
20-26	324-330	47	j	
Nov.27-Dec.3	331-337	48	k	
Dec.4 -10	338-344	49	l	
11 -17	345-351	50	m	
18 -24	352-358	51	n	Goat week
25 -31	359-365	52	o	

Northern Summer — 3rd Gregorian Quarter — Crab Quarter

Northern Autumn — 4th Gregorian Quarter — Scales Quarter

8. The grouping of the weeks.

I have endeavoured to use terms that will not be applicable exclusively to the northern hemisphere.

It is possible to group the weeks so as to form other quarters, for example, taking spring as beginning at the ram equinox we might take the ram week and the two six week spells following it as spring quarter for the northern hemisphere. The crab week and twelve following weeks as summer and so on.

Other grouping of the weeks may be desirable but I have not suggested grouping into 13 so-called months. I do not think that form of grouping is exactly impartial to the two hemispheres. The last four weeks at the end of the year will be imperfectly astride the solstice in the North, 10 days on one side and 18 on the other; but the corresponding group for the South will have its solstice at one end 3 days on one side and 25 on the other. That is possibly of no consequence for commerce but it is not good for comparisons of crops and weather in the two hemispheres. Hence though data for the weeks might be issued in groups of four the weeks ought not to be combined as months.

The grouping which I have indicated does not actually require a change in the Calendar. We could agree amongst ourselves to use it for crop-weather work without disturbing other people; but if the first day of the year is to be also the first day of one of our weeks with the existing calendar, its name would change with the year and each year would require some reorganisation of routine. That indeed would not be a difficult matter; but if commerce succeeds in re-adjusting the names of the days to keep the same sequence from year to year our organisation would be thereby eased.

9. The "off days".

We should then have to come to some conclusion about the day or two days to be separated from the weekly record in order to complete the 365 days. In my own view for reasons already given, an equinoctial day is the best. So I have assigned March 26 for it the day following Ram week. In leap year I would assign the 24th day of September to the same special category. The comparison of values for these individual days with those for the week near by and the year would in time yield useful information for different parts of the world.

10. I hope that in any case the world will not agree just to throw away 1/365 or 2/365 of its time in order to save the industrial part of it from having to account for them in its statistics. I would suggest if no ordinary work is to be done that they might be days of special survey for meteorology, phenology and agriculture and that the days might be chosen for world mobilisation in a campaign against the enemies of mankind, so that year by year we may be reminded of what Sir Arthur Shipley called euphemistically the minor horrors of war. Those who have no such enemies of their own might devote the spare day to helping those who have more than they can manage.

8. The stopping of the watch.

9. The "Duty Lamp".